

**Preliminary Amendment**

Applicant(s): Albert Everaerts et al.

Serial No.: 09/697,005

Filed: 25 October 2000

For: LATENT, OVER-TACKIFIED, ADHESIVES AND METHODS OF USE

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**Conclusion**

Prior to taking this application up for examination, the Examiner is asked to enter the above amendments. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' Representatives, Ann M. Mueting, at the below-listed telephone number, if it is believed that prosecution of this application may be assisted thereby. It is respectfully requested that the application be moved forward to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

Albert Everaerts et al.

By their representatives,

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Date

March 19, 2001

By:

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**CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8:**

The undersigned hereby certifies that this paper is being deposited in the United States Postal Service, as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on this 19 day of March, 2001.

Signature: Ann M. Mueting  
Name: Ann M. Mueting



**Appendix A - Specification/Claim Amendments with Notations To  
Indicate Changes Made  
Serial No.: 09/697,005  
Docket No.: 56117 USA 1A**

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**In the Specification**

The paragraph beginning at page 12, line 28, has been amended as follows:

Useful techniques for powder coating of the latent, over-tackified, adhesive include, but are not limited to, fluidized-bed coating, electrostatic spray processes, scatter coating, slurry coating a dispersion, and using a sieve to deposit the powder in a manner similar to screen printing. In the fluidized-bed coating process, the powdered material is placed in a container having a porous plate as its base. Air is passed through the plate, causing the powder to expand in volume and fluidize. In this state, the powder possesses some of the characteristics of a fluid. The substrate is heated in an oven to a temperature above the melting point of the powder and dipped into the fluidized bed where the particles melt on the surface to form a coating. Alternatively, the cold substrate can be run over a bed of fluidized particles that are tribo-charged and cling to the web. The powder-coated substrate can then be run through a heated zone or nip to fuse the particles. In the electrostatic spray process the powdered material is dispersed in an air stream and passed through a corona discharge field where the particles acquire an electrostatic charge. The charged particles are attracted to and deposited on the grounded substrate. The substrate, usually electrostatically coated at room temperature, is then placed in an oven where the powder melts and forms a coating. *See for example, Kirk-Othmer Encyclopedia of Chemical Technology, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition, Wiley: 1993, Vol. 8, pages 635-636.*

The paragraph beginning at page 13, line 13, has been amended as follows:

Methods of imagewise forming latent, over-tackified, adhesives are described in Applicant's Assignee's copending application U.S. Serial No. [ ] 09/697,008, filed on even date herewith, entitled "Imagewise Printing of Adhesives and Limited Coalescence Polymerization Method" (Attorney Docket No. 55695 USA 8A).

The paragraph beginning at page 16, line 26, has been amended as follows:

Any conventional technique can be used to apply the plasticizer to the latent, over-tackified, adhesive, whether it be before, during, or after deposition of the latent adhesive on a substrate. For example, a plasticizer can be applied in solid or liquid form. It can be optionally encapsulated, It can be applied in an imagewise fashion using the same or similar techniques as used to imagewise print a latent adhesive toner described in Applicant's Assignee's copending application U.S. Serial No. [ ] 09/697,008, filed on even date herewith, entitled "Imagewise Printing of Adhesives and Limited Coalescence Polymerization Method" (Attorney Docket No. 55695 USA 8A). If a liquid plasticizing agent is used, it can be applied by means of spray, flood, brush, roll, spread, wire, gravure, transfer roll, air knife, curtain, doctor blade coating, or other liquid delivery techniques (such as ink jet) to the areas of the latent, over-tackified, adhesive. If a solid, powdered plasticizing agent is used, it can be applied by means of conventional powder coating techniques. Solid, powdered plasticizing agents can be prepared using mechanical techniques such as cryo-grinding or hammer milling. The powder coating is then typically exposed to sufficient heat to melt the plasticizing agent, allowing it to absorb into and modify the Tg and shear storage modulus of the latent, over-tackified, adhesive to form a pressure sensitive adhesive material. The heat source can be diffuse so to activate broad areas of the latent, over-tackified, adhesive or focused to activate on discrete, predetermined portions thereof.